

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application or previous response to office action:

1. (Currently Amended) Method for monitoring a driver output coupled with a component, comprising the steps of:

providing for actively influencing the driver output in order to perform fault analysis,
and

influencing the driver output actively by applying a series of test pulses to the driver input and/or the driver output only if a fault state has occurred at the driver output for a specified period of time, wherein the fault state includes a fault of the driver or a fault of the component coupled with the driver output.

2. (Original) Method according to Claim 1, wherein the driver output is checked cyclically for the occurrence of a fault state.

3. (Original) Method according to Claim 2, wherein the specified period of time is considered to have elapsed if the fault state has occurred at the driver output for a prespecified number of consecutive cycles.

4. (Original) Method according to Claim 3, wherein it is possible to configure the prespecified number of consecutive cycles.

5. (Original) Method according to Claim 1, wherein the fault state at the driver output is represented by a binary value.

6. (Original) Method according to Claim 5, wherein the binary value representing the fault state at the binary output is stored.

7. (Cancelled) Method according to Claim 1, wherein the active influencing of the driver output comprises application of a series of test pulses to the driver input and/or the driver output.

8. (Currently Amended) Method for monitoring an arrangement comprising a driver output coupled with a component, the method comprising the steps of:
checking the driver output to determine an error of the arrangement and
influencing the driver output only if a fault state has occurred at the
driver output for a specified period of time;
~~_____ influencing the driver output actively only if a fault state has occurred at~~
~~the driver output for a specified period of time.~~

9. (Original) Method according to Claim 8, wherein the driver output is checked cyclically for the occurrence of a fault state.

10. (Original) Method according to Claim 9, wherein the specified period of time is considered to have elapsed if the fault state has occurred at the driver output for a prespecified number of consecutive cycles.

[[12]] 11. (Currently Amended) Method according to Claim 10, wherein it is possible to configure the prespecified number of consecutive cycles.

[[13]] 12. (Currently Amended) Method according to Claim 8, wherein the fault state at the driver output is represented by a binary value.

[[14]] 13. (Currently Amended) Method according to Claim [[13]] 12, wherein the binary value representing the fault state at the binary output is stored.

[[15]] 14. (Currently Amended) Method according to Claim 8, wherein the active influencing of the driver output comprises application of a series of test pulses to the driver input and/or the driver output.

[[16]] 15. (Currently Amended) Method for monitoring a driver ~~output~~**coupled with a component**, comprising the steps of:

- performing a fault analysis ~~of the~~ **by checking a driver output which is coupled with the component;**
- determining whether an error **of the driver coupled with the component** occurred;
- **applying a series of test pulses to a driver input and/or the driver output** ~~influencing the driver output actively~~ only if an error has occurred at the driver output for a specified period of time.

[[17]] 16. (Currently Amended) Method according to Claim **[[16]] 15**, wherein the driver output is checked cyclically for the occurrence of a error.

[[18]] 17. (Currently Amended) Method according to Claim **[[17]] 16**, wherein the specified period of time is considered to have elapsed if the error has occurred at the driver output for a prespecified number of consecutive cycles.

[[19]] 18. (Currently Amended) Method according to Claim **[[18]] 17**, wherein it is possible to configure the prespecified number of consecutive cycles.

[[20]] 19. (Currently Amended) Method according to Claim **[[16]] 15**, wherein the error at the driver output is represented by a binary value.

[[21]] 20. (Currently Amended) Method according to Claim **[[20]] 19**, wherein the binary value representing the error at the binary output is stored.

[[22]] 21. (Cancelled) Method according to Claim **[[16]] 15**, wherein the active influencing of the driver output comprises application of a series of test pulses to the driver input and/or the driver output.

22. (NEW) Method for monitoring a driver coupled with a component, comprising the steps of:

- performing a fault analysis by checking a driver output which is coupled with the component;
- determining whether an error of the driver coupled with the component occurred;
- applying a series of test pulses to the driver output only if an error has occurred at the driver output for a specified period of time.